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From: Ham-Policy Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-policy@ucsd.edu>
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Subject: Ham-Policy Digest V93 #2
To: Ham-Policy

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Today's Topics:

 True and correct information

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Policy-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Ham-Policy Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-policy".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 1 Jan 93 15:50:38 GMT
From: swrinde!gatech!gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: True and correct information
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

In article <C052pD.3px@sunblossom.ge.com> byrnes@sunsmart.dab.ge.com (Arthur Byrnes (ATS)) writes:

>Keywords:

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>Comments about the FCC commercial license;

>>It is required to be chief operator

>>of a *broadcast* station, or for repair of marine radios.

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>This is false information the transmitter license holder is now the entity
>responsible for incorrect operation of the broadcast station.

>This was pushed by the NAB (National Association of Broadcasters) because they
>did not like paying engineers wages. So now the person working on the station
>transmitter can be anyone.

Sorry, this is not false information. Broadcast licensees have *always*
been responsible for the proper operation of their equipment. In addition,

the chief operator is also directly responsible for the operation of the transmitting equipment, and (s)he must hold a General Radiotelephone license. The reason for the chief operator requirement is that licensees are normally corporate persons and the FCC wanted to retain the ability to charge some live person with violations since it's difficult to jail a corporation. It's true that the rules have changed such that the chief operator does not have to be present and in control of all transmissions as was once the case. It's also true that unlicensed persons can work on the transmitter under the direction of the chief operator. But a chief operator must be named by the licensee, and his/her signature must be present on all transmitter legal documents such as maintenance logs. That signature now means that (s)he has reviewed and oked any work that was performed. Chief operator is often now a contract position. I've served as chief operator for four stations at the same time.

What the NAB lobbied for, and got, was elimination of ordinary operator licensing, a removal of the requirement for a formal annual proof of performance, though the transmitter must still meet all the requirements a proof was intended to measure, and the elimination of *minimum* modulation and power limits. A broadcaster can now run less than 80% of authorized power, or use less than 20% modulation indefinitely without notifying the FCC. The FCC said essentially that if the broadcaster wanted to hurt his audience coverage, that was his business and the market would deal with it.

Gary

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End of Ham-Policy Digest V93 #2
